



Possible Additions to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Draft 2007-2011 State Plan

Based on the community response received so far, the State Council will be considering several additions to the Draft 2007-2011 State Plan. The State Council will not vote on revisions to the State Plan until completion of the public review and comment period; however, staff has consulted with the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities and prepared a compilation of possible changes to the Plan. For the remainder of the public review and comment period, comments are being sought on the possible additions as well as the original document. Nothing in the original Draft Plan is being proposed for deletion at this time (although an objective may move to a different goal or area of emphasis).

Comments on the original draft and possible changes may be made by attending one of the remaining public hearings, or by:

- **Email** to council@scdd.ca.gov
(please include "State Plan Comments" in the subject heading)
- **Fax** to: 916-443-4957 (Attention: State Plan Comments)
- **Mail** to: SCDD (Attention: Plan Comments)
1507 21st Street, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 92814

All comments must be received by July 17 at 6:30 PM.

Housing (additional Area of Emphasis)

Issues:

- California has one of the highest costs of living in the nation, making it hard for consumers to qualify for ownership or even rental housing without assistance
- The need for accessible and affordable housing far outstrips the supply

What the Council can do:

- Disseminate information on current housing programs and resources (including those funded by the Council)
- Promote/fund replication of successful programs that provide access to affordable home ownership or rental
- Promote policies that increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for people with developmental disabilities, including incentives for the building/real estate industry
- Collaborate with local and state affordable housing organizations, housing corporations, developers and others to increase housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities
- Advocate for increased housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities

Possible Goal

Californians with developmental disabilities have access to affordable housing that provides control, choice and flexibility regarding where and with whom they live.

Possible Housing Objectives

1. By 2011, xxxx Californians with developmental disabilities and their families will have information and training in multiple languages on affordable/accessible housing
2. By 2011, 100 units of affordable/accessible housing will be available to Californians with developmental disabilities through Council efforts
3. By 2011, xxxx Californians with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the State will receive information on Council-funded online Statewide Housing Program Locator.
4. By 2009, advocate for California to apply for a Social Security waiver allowing individuals with developmental disabilities to save up to \$10,000 in the bank.

Employment (additional Area of Emphasis)

Issues:

- People with developmental disabilities are significantly under-represented in the workforce, despite decades of employment and pre-employment services
- Children with disabilities are not given an equal opportunity to learn of and dream about possible future careers, especially in school settings
- The growing shortage of supported employment services, made worse by reimbursements that do not cover the providers' costs, provide an additional barrier to gainful employment
- Limited access to assistive technology and education/training for consumers, co-workers, and employers further limit employment opportunities

What the Council can do:

- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that increase employment/self-employment/micro enterprise opportunities for people with developmental disabilities
- Educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about work opportunities and available benefits, beginning in childhood
- Collaborate with supported employment and other providers to increase employment/self employment/micro enterprise opportunities for people with developmental disabilities
- Collaborate with schools and adult providers to increase transition to employment as people with developmental disabilities leave the educational system
- Advocate for access to employment/self employment/micro enterprise for people with developmental disabilities
- Collaborate with supported employment and other providers to professionalize and stabilize the service delivery system by advocating for recognized education, better salaries and career opportunities to advance and retain quality career service providers.

Possible Goal

Californians with developmental disabilities obtain, succeed and advance in employment consistent with their interests, abilities, and needs.

Possible Employment Objectives

1. By 2011 XXX Californians with developmental disabilities will obtain paid employment or self employment of their choosing
2. By 2011 xxx California regulations/policies will be created/improved to ensure a smoother transition from education to employment
3. By 2011 xxx Californians with developmental disabilities will be educated/trained in multiple languages regarding employment options, incentives and resources
4. By 2011 the Council will advocate for introduction of career possibilities curriculum for all children in regular and special education by age 10.
5. By 2011 500 consumers, family members, providers and employers will be educated/trained on assistive technology for the workplace.
6. By 2011 the Council will collaborate with appropriate entities to achieve the system reforms contained in SB1270.

Health (additional Area of Emphasis)Issues:

- People with developmental disabilities have limited access to primary care, specialist and dental care due to Medicaid reimbursement rates
- Mental health services for people with developmental disabilities are difficult to access, not only due to funding, but often from mistaken beliefs that people with developmental disabilities can't benefit from mental health services
- Health care services and funding, especially federal funding, is in a state of flux. People need information and education to stay informed and manage potential changes
- People with developmental disabilities have limited access to physicians and clinicians who understand their condition.

- People with developmental disabilities have limited access to medical offices and equipment that are physically accessible and that accommodate their needs.
- Prevention is critical. People need to learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and other issues that can assist in prevention or amelioration of the impact of a disability
- People with developmental disabilities need access to information and activities that promote healthy lifestyles

What the Council can do:

- Support physician and clinician education regarding developmental disabilities
- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that increase access to health/dental care
- Advocate for accessible, affordable, knowledgeable health and dental care for people with developmental disabilities
- Collaborate with health policy organizations, groups, physicians, dentists and others to increase accessibility and awareness for people with developmental disabilities
- Collaborate with health policy organizations, interested groups, physicians to increase prevention awareness
- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that increase culturally sensitive public awareness on: prevention of disabilities; local health resources for prenatal and neonatal care; early identification of developmental disabilities; and early intervention.
- Invest State Council funding and/or area board resources

Possible Goals

- 1) Californians with developmental disabilities have access to a full range of coordinated health, dental and mental health services in their communities.
- 2) Californians with developmental disabilities have control, choice and flexibility over their health care.
- 3) Californians will achieve optimal health and wellness through the prevention of primary and secondary causes of disabilities and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Possible Health Objectives

1. The Council will educate at least 100 policymakers, public officials and health professionals per year on the importance and need for universal developmental screenings for all children.
2. By 2008, XXX Californians with developmental disabilities and their families will be educated on MediCal managed care and be able to make informed choices as a result.
3. By 2011 the Council will promote policies and programs to educate physicians and clinicians on developmental disabilities on how to best provide appropriate health, mental health and dental care for consumers.
4. By 2009 the Council will work collaboratively to launch a major statewide campaign to educate the public on the dangers of drinking while pregnant.
5. The Council will collaborate with the Governor's office and other state agencies on programs and projects that maximize health and wellness, including physical fitness, nutrition and obesity prevention.
6. By 2009 the Council will educate juvenile court judges, probation departments, mental health and social service agencies, educators, and regional centers in at least eight Counties on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), its prevention, associated secondary disabilities, diagnostic information, local resources, interventions, and best practices.

7. By 2008 the Council will establish at least one consumer peer-to-peer project to educate consumers on achieving optimal health through physical activity, healthy lifestyles, proper nutrition and obesity prevention.

Education and Early Intervention (additional Area of Emphasis)

Issues:

- Families, especially those with limited English proficiency, experience delays in information and access to Early Intervention services
- There is a gap in services and supports between the ages of 3 and 5 as children and families are caught between the Early Start and Regional Center systems
- Families of children who meet the federal definition of developmental disabilities but are not eligible for regional center services need information on services and supports for which their child may qualify
- Many students have limited access to an appropriate education
- The increasing numbers of students with autism has impacted their educational opportunities for students as schools are unable or unwilling to provide appropriate programs
- Opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be an integral part of their school community are limited by limited access to assistive technology.
- There are limited opportunities for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities who want to pursue post secondary education

What the Council can do:

- Advocate for students so they receive an appropriate education
- Educate students and families on their rights and responsibilities regarding special education
- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that increase access to assistive technology
- Provide information/education to people with developmental disabilities and their families regarding assistive technology
- Promote legislation, regulation and policy changes that make post secondary education available to people with developmental disabilities who want it
- Invest State Council funding and/or area board resources

Possible Goals

- 1) California infants and toddlers reach their developmental potential and families have the necessary supports to provide for their family member's special needs.
- 2) Californians with developmental disabilities have control, choice and flexibility in the education they receive

Possible Objectives

1. Every year 2000 students with developmental disabilities and their families will have information, advocacy and support in multiple languages to receive an appropriate education through Council and area board efforts
2. The Council will replicate successful technical assistance models to increase the participation of 100 children per year in inclusive preschools

3. The Council will promote policies that give infants and toddlers and their families access to culturally appropriate and timely diagnosis, services and supports to maximize developmental potential and strengthen families.

Transportation (additional Area of Emphasis)

Issues:

- Most people with developmental disabilities rely on public transportation (and Paratransit) to access their community.
- Public transportation is not available at certain times/certain dates in many locations. This, in turn, can further limit access to employment and healthcare.
- The time spent on public transportation is often too long for the distance traveled due to routes and transfers.
- Paratransit is unreliable and often it is difficult to coordinate when crossing catchment areas.

What the Council can do:

- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that increase access to public transportation and Paratransit.
- Collaborate with transportation entities to develop policies/procedures that will coordinate, simplify and make public transportation available to people with developmental disabilities and others
- Advocate for better accessible public transportation and Paratransit services
- Invest State Council funding and/or area board resources

Possible Goal

Californians with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to transportation that enables full participation in all aspects of community life.

Possible Objectives

1. By 2009, the Council will develop a coordinated transportation system model that serves the needs of people with developmental disabilities through public/private collaborative efforts
2. By 2011 the Council will replicate the coordinated transportation model in at least one other area.

Assistive Technology (Within the appropriate Areas of Emphasis)

Issues:

- Consumers and families have not been educated on the availability of assistive technology
- Families report reluctance by professionals to consider assistive technology for those with cognitive impairments
- Even when assistive technology is provided, consumers, families, providers and staff are not properly trained in its usage, care and maintenance
- Consumers and families need to be able to try out various pieces of equipment to determine the best match for the individual before an expensive purchase is made
- As consumers become comfortable with the use of their AT equipment, they need additional training to utilize their equipment to its maximum potential
- The Internet is increasingly the source of community access and participation but the ongoing monthly cost of an Internet Service Provider is a hardship for consumers with limited incomes

What the Council can do:

- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that increase access to assistive technology
- Provide information/education to people with developmental disabilities and their families regarding assistive technology
- Advocate for access to assistive technology

Possible Goal under Community Supports

Californians with developmental disabilities will experience increased inclusion and independence through the use of assistive technology.

Possible Objectives (some of these objectives may be placed under self-advocacy)

1. By 2007 the Council will work collaboratively with appropriate entities to develop and implement a plan to educate staff and service coordinators about computer and assistive technologies and how these tools can be used to increase consumer and family control, choice and flexibility.
2. By 2008 the Council will work collaboratively to develop and implement a campaign to educate consumers and families about computer and assistive technologies and how these technologies can be used to maximize their developmental and educational potential.
3. By 2007 the Council will advocate for policies that secure free (or low-cost) Internet access for adults with developmental disabilities.
4. The Council will work collaboratively on methods to ensure that staff/educators/providers who interact with the consumer are also properly trained in how the AT equipment works and is used (low tech as well as high tech)
5. By 2009, the Council will advocate for the periodic re-evaluation and re-training of consumers periodically as their proficiency with the equipment increases
6. By 2008 the Council will promote the creation of locations where consumers and their families can try out a variety of assistive technology choices to choose the equipment best suited to their individual needs.

Abuse Prevention (Within the federal definition of Quality Assurance)*Issue:*

The right to community inclusion must not require unnecessary risk of harm or abuse. It must include full access, rights and protections within the justice system for individuals with developmental disabilities, whether victims, witnesses, accused or convicted, and include systemic advocates ensuring that those rights are met.

What the Council can do:

- Promote policies that include equal access rights and protections within the criminal justice system for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Work collaboratively with the federal partner agencies to achieve the recommendations outlined in the jointly produced "Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for California"

Possible Goal

Californians with developmental disabilities are free of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and are provided equal access to protection and legal remedies when those rights are violated.

Possible Objectives

1. By 2007, the State Council will convene the "Abuse Victims with Disabilities Think Tank" funded by the federal Children's Justice Act
2. The Council, in collaboration with its federal DD Act partners (PAI, USC and UCLA), will continue advocating for implementation of the recommendations contained in its joint report, "Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for California"

Emergency Preparedness (Within Community Supports)

Issues:

- The federal government is launching a major effort to improve emergency preparedness for both natural disasters (i.e. Hurricane Katrina), and man-made disasters (i.e. September 11)
- The needs of Individuals with developmental disabilities must be included in all emergency preparedness planning
- The Administration on Developmental Disabilities Commissioner has requested that the State Plan include emergency preparedness

What the Council can do:

- Promote policies, legislation and regulations that include
- Provide information/education to people with developmental disabilities and their families regarding assistive technology

Possible Goal under Community Supports

Californians with developmental disabilities have full and equal protections in all state and federal emergency preparedness/homeland security programs.

Possible Objectives

1. By 2007 The State Council will collaborate with other state and federal agencies to ensure that all Californians with developmental disabilities and their families have a personal emergency plan, and will advocate for the inclusion of this information in all Individual Education and Program Plans (IEP/IPP).
2. By 2007 the State Council will participate in a statewide Task Force to ensure that the needs of Californians with developmental disabilities and their families are included in all emergency preparedness training and services.
3. By 2007 the State Council will work collaboratively to convene a California emergency management conference patterned after the June 2006 federal "Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly."
4. By 2007 the State Council will participate in California's Emergency Preparedness Vulnerable Populations Subcommittee.